

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CERP 1212: BUSINESS HOLIDAYS IN OMAN

REF: DEPT'S A-6683

1. BUSINESSES IN OMAN GENERALLY OBSERVE FOLLOWING ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS. SINCE ALL ARE FIXED ON BASIS OF LUNAR OBSERVATIONS, DATES GIVEN FOR 1976 SHOULD BE CONSIDERED APPROXIMATE ONLY (EXTRAPOLATED FROM 1975 SCHEDULING): ISLAMIC NEW YEAR, JANUARY 3; BIRTH OF THE PROPHET, MARCH 15; ASCENSION DAY, JULY 26; EID AL FITR, SEPT. 25, 26, 27; EID AL ADHA, DEC. 2, 3, 4, 5.

2. ONLY FIXED BUSINESS HOLIDAY IS NATIONAL DAY, NOV. 18-19.

3. BUSINESSMEN SHOULD BE ALERTED TO FACT THAT MOST FIRMS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS. FINALLY, SINCE THERE ARE RELATIVELY LARGE MINORITY COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED, SOME BUSINESSES OBSERVE DATES NOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AS HOLIDAYS (E.G. INDIAN FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS).

4. TO INSURE PRODUCTIVE PROGRAMMING, BUSINESS VISITORS SHOULD CORRESPOND WITH LOCAL PROSPECTS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN OMAN, BOTH TO AVOID DEAD TIME DUE TO HOLIDAYS, ETC., AND TO ASCERTAIN THAT LOCAL BUSINESS CONTACT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT TIME OF VISIT. LATTER IS IMPORTANT SINCE MOST LOCAL FIRMS NOT ORGANIZED TO DELEGATE DECISION-MAKING RESPONSIBILITY.

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